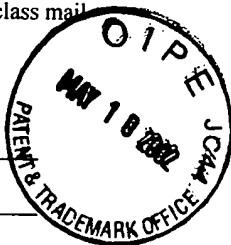


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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PATENT
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ORIGINALLY FILED

May 1, 2002
By Michelle Chan
Michelle Chan

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

RING-LING CHIEN et al.

Application No.: 10/076,136

Filed: February 14, 2002

For: MICROFLUIDIC SYSTEMS WITH
ENHANCED DETECTION
SYSTEMS

Examiner: To be Assigned

Art Unit: 1741

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

~~Please replace the paragraph which begins on page 16, line 10 with the following:~~

A1
The sampling capillary 528 was used to draw sample materials into channel 508b. This involved application of a negative pressure at reservoir 512 to sip sample materials from sample wells or tubes. After being drawn into channel 508b, the material moved into the detection channel segment 510 at which point it was subject to detection. The material then moved into channel 508a and out toward reservoir 512.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for early examination, and action toward that end is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would expedite the examination of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew L. Filler
Reg. No. 44,107

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